

## FORM B – BUILDING

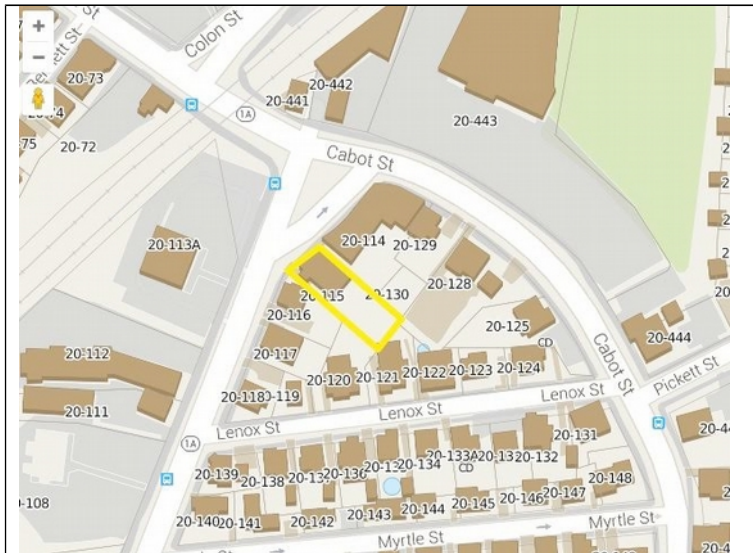
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Northwest (façade) and southwest elevations

### Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero and Pamela Hartford  
**Organization:** Beverly Historic District Commission  
**Date (month / year):** September 2016

Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form Number

20-115

Salem

BEV.1131

**Town/City:** Beverly

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Gloucester Crossing

**Address:** 501 Rantoul Street

**Historic Name:** Church of the Nazarene

**Uses:** Present: church

Original: church

**Date of Construction:** 1909

**Source:** building permit and Dept. of Public Safety  
Records

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Ernest Parsons, architect;  
F. M. Hoak, builder

#### Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding and trim

Roof: fiberglass asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
None

**Major Alterations (*with dates*):**  
Vinyl siding (late 20<sup>th</sup> c?) - Replacement windows (2012)

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no ☒    yes ☐    **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.18 acre

**Setting:** Located near the intersection of two main thoroughfares, Rantoul and Cabot streets, on the edge of a densely built residential neighborhood dating primarily from the late 19<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Small commercial node at the intersection features early to (mostly) late 20<sup>th</sup> century construction of varied scales.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

BEVERLY

501 RANTOUL STREET

Area(s) Form No.

BEV.1131

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The Church of the Nazarene occupies a long and relatively narrow lot that extends to the center of the triangular block formed by the intersection of Rantoul, Cabot, and Lenox streets. Set towards the street edge of the parcel, the building has a modest setback on the front, a very narrow setback on the northeast side, both maintained in lawn, and an asphalt-paved driveway on the southwest side that extends around the back of the building into a surface parking lot. The parcel slopes up gradually toward the back, with the church building standing several feet above street level. A rubble retaining wall lines the sidewalk edge of the parcel, while low concrete retaining walls extend along the inside of the driveway and the northeast property line.

The building consists of a 1 ½ story main block with a three story tower at its west corner and a small (13 feet wide by 5 feet deep) projection on the rear (southeast) elevation. The main block rises from a concrete foundation scored to look like block to a front gable roof with gable returns. Walls are clad with vinyl siding and trim. Windows are typically 6/6 double hung, rectangular sash with a semi-circular, mullioned fanlight and band molding around the wood casings. The raised basement has 4-pane horizontal sash on the northeast elevation and small 4/4 double hung sash on the southwest elevation.

On the Rantoul Street façade a group of three arched openings with decorative stained glass is offset on the first floor. Centered in the half story is a large, arched opening with a pair of 4/4 double hung sash surmounted by a semi-circular fanlight. The rectangular tower on the west corner of the building has arched window openings on the first and second floors and small horizontal glazed openings on the third story, culminating in a pyramidal steeple. The main entrance is recessed behind a small porch with sturdy square columns, accessed by a lower flight of concrete steps and an upper flight of wood steps. The doorway is comprised of double leaf, wood- and glass-paned doors, FULL height sidelights, and a semi-circular fanlight.

The southwest and northeast elevations contain four and five bays of windows, respectively. The rear elevation contains an offset entrance with a single-leaf wood door and band molding around the casing; it is accessed by a modern concrete ramp. Centered on the first floor of this elevation is a small one-story projection, which has a 4/4 window with semicircular fanlight on each short side and a steep hip roof.

The Church of the Nazarene is a well-preserved example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century, wood frame ecclesiastical architecture in Beverly. Although it has lost its original siding and wall trim, the building is notable for its simple form, prominent tower, fan-lighted windows and main entrance, decorative stained glass, and uncommon use of the Colonial Revival style on a religious building.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The Church of the Nazarene reflects the industrialization and surge in population of downtown Beverly in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The congregation was organized in 1906 under Rev. Ira D. Archibald; services were originally held in a hall in the Appleton Block on Wallis Street. First known as Wesley Holiness Mission, in 1908, the church aligned itself with and was re-named the Church of the Nazarene. Only a year later, the present building was constructed with the members' donated labor and materials for a cost of \$3,800. In 1907, this end of Rantoul Street was still substantially residential in character, lined with well-spaced, wood frame houses on both sides of Rantoul Street and at the intersection with Cabot Street. The electric street railway ran down both Rantoul and Cabot Streets.

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The property acquired by the Church of the Nazarene for its new home belonged to the heirs of Austin E. Martin (identified in the directories as both a shoe maker and a heel shaver). In 1907, the lot contained a wood-frame house near the center of the Rantoul Street frontage and a large outbuilding behind. It appears that the congregation removed the barn and moved the house to the back of the parcel, apparently for use as a parsonage. (As early as 1910 and at least through 1950, the minister's home address was the rear of the church's street address.)

Early ministers of the Church of the Nazarene included Rev. Edwin J. Lord (1910), Rev. John S. Parkins (1921), Rev. Elton B. Stetson (1930), Rev. D. Ward Albright (1940), and Rev. George H. Keeler (1950 and 1960). Known members of the church during the first two-thirds of the 20<sup>th</sup> century represented a range of working class and lower white-collar workers, including a florist, clerk, and many employees of the nearby United Shoe Machinery Company. In 1964, the Church of the Nazarene moved to a new building at 556 Cabot Street, which in 1960 was the home address of Rev. Keeler. In 1965, 501 Rantoul Street was occupied by the Seventh Day Adventist Church, under the leadership of Rev. George B. Clavet.

The Department of Public Safety's Plan Records identify Ernest Parsons as the building's architect. Parsons (1879-1967), a native of Lynn, Mass., was graduated from Harvard in 1903 and trained in the office of the prominent Boston firm of Wheelwright and Haven in 1903 and 1904. From 1905 to 1919, Parsons was in partnership with John E. Somes, Jr. (1879-1919), as Somes and Parsons. Somes also trained at Harvard, and served an apprenticeship with the firm of Bacon and Hill. Parsons alone is identified as the architect for the Lahey Clinic at 605 Commonwealth Avenue (1925; BOS.15411); Somes and Parsons is credited with a number of commercial/industrial buildings near Kenmore Square in Boston, including automobile showrooms/garages at 620 Commonwealth Ave. (demolished) and 111 Cummington Street (1909; BOS.15389). From 1920 to 1940, Parsons was associated with the firm of Parsons & Wait; from 1944 to 1948 he was employed as an associate with another leading Boston firm, Perry, Shaw & Hepburn. F. M. Hoak, the builder identified in the building permits, is thought to be Frank M. Hoak (1875-1969), who lived in Beverly from at least 1910 through 1958; early in his career (through at least 1920), he was identified as a house carpenter; later records describe him as a stair builder.

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- [Beverly Church of the Nazarene.] "Beverly Church of the Nazarene; Dedication Sunday; May 31, 1964". Pamphlet in the Beverly Historical Society archives, "Churches – Beverly Church of the Nazarene" folder.
- Beverly city directories, 1886 – 1965.
- City of Beverly, Building Inspector's Office. Building permit records.
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Safety, Plan Records.
- Hepler, Margaret. *Beverly; Historic Cultural Resources Survey, 1992-93; Final Report*. June 1993.
- Historic maps and atlases: 1897 (George H. Walker), 1907 (George H. Walker), 1919 (Yaeger-Klinge), 1907/50 and 1958 (Sanborn)
- Jenkins, Candace, and Frontiero, Wendy. Lahey Clinic, 605 Commonwealth Avenue (BOS.15411), 2003; and Back Bay Realty Association Garage (BOS.15389), 2003.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Beverly*. 1986.
- \_\_\_\_\_. MACRIS database.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Research provided by Michael Steinitz, September 2016.
- U.S. Federal Census: 1910, 1920.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Northwest (façade) elevation: detail



Southeast and northeast elevations